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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,695	09/08/2003	Takashi Kawashima	7217/69676	1235
7590	11/10/2005		EXAMINER	
			MERCEDES, DISMERY E	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2651		
DATE MAILED: 11/10/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/657,695	KAWASHIMA ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Dismery E. Mercedes	2651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2003.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1,10,22 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 2-9,11-21,23-40 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1,10, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamada et al. (US 5,912,780).

Yamada et al. discloses a recording and reproducing apparatus for a tape-shaped recording medium having an anisotropic property oblique in a direction relative to a thickness direction thereof, said recording and reproducing apparatus comprising: transfer means for transferring said tape-shaped recording medium in one of a forward and a reverse direction (as depicted in Fig.3, "31,32,33,27); a recording and/or reproducing head arranged to create a recording track in a direction parallel to said forward and reverse transfer direction of said tape-shaped recording for scanning said tape-shaped recording medium along said recording track (as depicted in Fig.3, "15"); signal-processing unit connected to said recording and/or reproducing head and supplied with a signal to be recorded, and with an output signal from said reproducing head, said signal-processing unit for carrying out signal processing required for a recording operation on a signal be recorded and used for carrying out signal processing required for reproducing operation the output signal from said reproducing head (as depicted in Fig.3, "26,40"); and a control unit for controlling operations of said signal-processing unit, for forming a judgment as to whether said transfer direction of said tape-shaped recording medium transferred by said transfer means is said forward direction or said reverse

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direction, and for controlling said signal processing unit in accordance with a result of said judgment (as depicted in Fig.3, "24" and col.3, lines 11-32, col.4, lines 1-15, col.9, line 5- col.10, line 65).

As to Claims 1 and 10 have similar limitations to those treated in the above rejection, and are met by the references as discussed above.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1-9,11-21,23-40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Nishima et al. (US 6,236,800 B1); Hathaway et al. (US 4,916,555), Aoki et al. (US 6,122,129) ; Yoshida et al. (US 5,963,388) ;Ii (US 5,121,264).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dismery E. Mercedes whose telephone number is 571-272-7558. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, from 9:00am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dismery E Mercedes

Examiner

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DM



DAVID HUDSPETH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600